Michael Freund SBN 99687 1 Law Office of Michael Freund 1919 Addison Street Suite 105 2 Berkeley, CA 94704 Telephone: (510) 540-1992 3 Facsimile: (510) 540-5543 4 Attorney for Plaintiff Environmental Research Center 5 Judith Praitis SBN 151303 Sidley Austin LLP 6 555 W 5th Street, 40th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90013 7 Telephone: (213) 896-6637 Facsimile: (213) 896-6600 8 Attorneys for Defendant Country Life, LLC 9 10 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 11 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA** 12 Case No. RG12634149 ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, 13 a California non-profit corporation [PROPOSED] STIPULATED 14 Plaintiff, CONSENT JUDGMENT; [PROPOSED] ORDER 15 v. Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 16 COUNTRY LIFE, LLC and DOES 1-100, et seq. 17 Defendants. 18 19 1. INTRODUCTION 20 On or about June 12, 2012, Plaintiff Environmental Research Center ("ERC"), a non-1.1 21 profit corporation, as a private enforcer, and in the public interest, initiated this action by filing a 22 Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties pursuant to the provisions of 23 Cal. Health & Safety Code Sections 25249.5 et seq. ("Proposition 65"), against Defendant Country 24 Life, LLC ("Country Life") and Does 1-100 (the "Complaint"). In this action, ERC alleges that 25 products manufactured, distributed or sold by Country Life contain lead, a chemical listed under 26 Proposition 65 as a carcinogen and reproductive toxin, and expose California consumers at a level 27

requiring a Proposition 65 warning. These products are: Super Fiber Psyllium Seed Husk Powder;

Green Edge Powder; Green Edge 2 Powder; and Daily Fiber X (the "Covered Products"). "Covered Products" shall include any successor product to any Covered Product. A successor product is any of the following: a) the same product but with a new label or with changes to the existing label; b) the same product in a different container or packaging than the container or packaging presently used; c) the same product formula, but with ingredients from different suppliers than those currently supplying the ingredients.. Successor products shall be regarded as Covered Products and subject to all of the terms hereof. ERC and Country Life shall sometimes be referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties."

- 1.2 ERC is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by bringing about a reduction in the use and misuse of hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees and encouraging corporate responsibility. ERC has diligently prosecuted this matter and is settling this case in the public interest.
- 1.3 Country Life is a business entity that at all times relevant for purposes of this Consent Judgment employed or will employ ten or more persons. Country Life manufactures, distributes or sells (or some combination of the foregoing) the Covered Products for use by California consumers.
- 1.4 The Complaint is based on alleged violations contained in ERC's Notice of Violation dated March 11, 2011 (the "Notice of Violation") that was served on the California Attorney General, other public enforcers and Country Life. A true and correct copy of this Notice of Violation is attached hereto as Exhibit A. More than 60-days have passed since this Notice of Violation was mailed and no public enforcement entity has filed a complaint against Country Life with regard to the Covered Products or the alleged violations.
- 1.5 ERC's Notice of Violation and the Complaint allege that use of the Covered Products exposes persons in California to lead without first providing clear and reasonable warnings, in violation of Cal. Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6. Country Life denies all material allegations contained in the Notice of Violation and Complaint and specifically denies that the Covered Products require a Proposition 65 warning or otherwise cause harm to any person.

- 1.6 The Parties have entered into this Consent Judgment in order to settle, compromise and resolve disputed claims and thus avoid prolonged and costly litigation. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall constitute or be construed as an admission by any of the Parties, or by any of their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, franchises, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers, of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law, violation of law, fault, wrongdoing, or liability, including without limitation, any admission concerning any alleged violation of Proposition 65; provided, however, nothing in this Section 1.6 shall affect the enforceability of this Consent Judgment.
- 1.7 Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall prejudice, waive or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in any other or future legal proceeding unrelated to these proceedings.
- 1.8 The Effective Date of this Consent Judgment shall be the date on which it is entered as a Judgment by this Court.
- Covered Products: Green Edge Powder (discontinued as of June 23, 2011); Green Edge II Powder (discontinued as of May 6, 2011). As of June 20, 2011, Country Life placed warnings which comply with Proposition 65 on Daily Fiber X. Country Life also placed warnings which comply with Proposition 65 on its last stocks of the two discontinued Covered Products, which were "distributed into the stream of commerce" (as that phrase is defined in Section 3.1(d) below). ERC's Notice of Violation included four additional products: Superior Multiple Tablets, Maximized Action Max for Men, Maxi Pre-Natal Capsules and Beyond Food. Country Life contends all of these products are subject to an existing Consent Judgment entered November 13, 1998 resolving the case styled *People v. Warner-Lambert Co. et al.* (San Francisco Super. Ct. Case No 984503, and including an Amended Order Modifying Consent Judgments entered on July 18, 2011) and thus are not subject to the Complaint or this Consent Judgment. With respect to Super Fiber Psyllium Seed Husk Powder, testing conducted by Country Life shows use of this Covered Product does not result in an exposure

to lead greater than 0.5 micrograms per day. Thus, no warnings under Section 3.2 are required unless otherwise mandated under Section 3.1 after the Effective Date.

2. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the Parties stipulate that this Court has jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the Complaint and personal jurisdiction over Country Life as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that venue is proper in Alameda County, and that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final resolution of all claims which were or could have been asserted in this action based on the facts alleged in the Notices of Violation and the Complaint.

3. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, REFORMULATION, TESTING AND WARNINGS

- 3.1 (a) On or after the Effective Date, Country Life shall be permanently enjoined from manufacturing for sale in California, "distributing into California," (as that phrase is defined in Section 3.1(d) below) or directly selling to a consumer in California Green Edge Powder or Green Edge II Powder; provided, however, such Covered Products "distributed into the stream of commerce" by Country Life prior to the Effective Date may be sold without the warning specified in Section 3.2.
- (b) On or after the Effective Date, Country Life shall be permanently enjoined from manufacturing for sale in California, "distributing into California," or directly selling to a consumer in California Daily Fiber X for which the maximum daily dose recommended by Country Life contains more than 0.5 micrograms of lead unless such Covered Product complies with the warning requirement set forth in Section 3.2 below; provided, however, such Covered Products "distributed into the stream of commerce" by Country Life prior to the Effective Date may be sold without a warning as specified in Section 3.2.
- (c) No warning under Proposition 65 and Section 3.2 is required for Super Fiber Psyllium Seed Husk Powder used by a California consumer unless the lead levels increase in such Covered Products first manufactured after the Effective Date such that lead levels exceed 0.5 micrograms in the maximum recommended daily dose on the label.

- (d) "Distributing into California" means to directly ship a Covered Product into California for sale in California or to sell a Covered Product to a distributor that Country Life knows will sell the Covered Product in California. "Distributed into the stream of commerce" means Country Life sold the Covered Product to a customer and no longer determines further distribution, sale or use.
- 3.2 **Clear and Reasonable Warnings.** For Covered Products subject to the warning requirement of Section 3.1, Country Life shall provide the following warning as specified below:

[California Prop. 65] WARNING: This product contains lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause [cancer and] birth defects or other reproductive harm. The term "cancer" shall be used in the warning only if the maximum daily dose recommended on the label contains more than 15 micrograms of lead while using the testing protocol set forth in Section 3.4. The words "California Prop. 65" shall be at Country Life's option.

- 3.3 The warning shall be prominently affixed to or printed upon the product's label of the Covered Product so as to be clearly conspicuous, as compared with other statements or designs on the label as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary purchaser or user of the product. If the warning is displayed on the product's label, the warning shall be at least the same size as the largest of any other health or safety warnings on the product and the word "warning" shall be in all capital letters and in bold print and, if used, the words "California Prop. 65" shall be in bold print.
- 3.4 **Testing.** Country Life shall continue its testing of the Covered Products (or ingredients therein) to monitor lead levels using a commercial laboratory or its own in-house equipment. The testing shall continue for so long as any of the Covered Products are "distributed into California" after the Effective Date. All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed by using Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry ("ICPMS") and closed-vessel, microwave-assisted digestion employing high-purity reagents or any other testing method subsequently agreed upon in writing by the Parties. Country Life shall maintain copies of any and all tests completed on the Covered Products and provide a copy of the test results to ERC upon request, within 30 days of such request.

4.

SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS

- 4.1 In full and final satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, payment in lieu of civil penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs, Country Life shall make a total payment of \$45,000, payable within ten (10) business days of receiving the Notice of Entry of this Consent Judgment. The payment shall be apportioned as follows:
- 4.2 \$3,160.00 as civil penalties pursuant to California Health & Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(1). Of this amount, \$2,370.00 shall be payable to OEHHA, and \$790.00 shall be payable to ERC. Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.12(c)(1) & (d). ERC's counsel shall forward the civil penalty payment to OEHHA, and send a copy of the transmittal letter to counsel for Country Life.
- 4.3 \$15,973.00 payable to ERC, as reimbursement to ERC for reasonable investigation costs associated with this matter.
- 4.4 \$16,387.00 payable to Michael Freund as reimbursement of ERC's attorneys' fees and attorney's costs.
- 4.5 \$9,480.00 in lieu of further civil penalties, payable to ERC, of which \$8,480.00 shall be used for funding the continued enforcement of Proposition 65 matters which address ingestible products containing Proposition 65 chemicals, similar to the subject matter of this action, and \$1,000.00 to be donated to "The Painted Turtle," an organization founded by Paul Newman. The Painted Turtle is part of Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Camps for seriously ill children and is located in Lake Hughes, California. It is the only multi-disease camp and family care center of its kind on the West Coast. Through educational, therapeutic, safe, and summer camp and year-round programs, The Painted turtle provides a life-changing experience to children whose daily struggles often diminish both their desire to be well and their ability to lead a rich, productive life. The Painted Turtle is staffed by California's top medical specialty professionals, who volunteer to live at the Camp throughout each session and who work closely with their full-time staff of nurses and doctor. Children with a variety of illnesses are helped by this worthy organization, including children afflicted with diseases thought to be caused in part by environmental toxins, vitamins, hormones, herbs, physician-prescribed medications and over the counter medications. Further

information about this organization can be found at http://the paintedturtle.org/turtle. The "in lieu" funds are to be distributed within 60 days of receipt by Michael Freund.

The above payments shall be mailed to the Law Office of Michael Freund. ERC and Mr. Freund shall provide taxpayer identification information to counsel for Country Life to allow the payments to be processed by Country Life.

5. MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

This Consent Judgment may be modified only by written agreement and stipulation of the Parties, or upon noticed motion filed by any Party, followed by entry of a modified consent judgment by the Court.

6. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION, ENFORCEMENT OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

- 6.1 This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to enforce, modify or terminate this Consent Judgment.
- 6.2 Only after it complies with Section 10 below, any Party may, by motion or application for an order to show cause filed with this Court, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Judgment. The prevailing party may request that the Court award its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated with such motion or application. As used in the preceding sentence, the term "prevailing party" means a party who is successful in obtaining relief more favorable to it than the relief that the other party was amenable to providing during the parties' good faith attempt to resolve the dispute that is the subject of such enforcement action.

7. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

This Consent Judgment shall apply to, be binding upon and benefit the Parties, and their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, and the predecessors, successors and assigns of any of them, and ERC on its own behalf and the public interest as set forth in Paragraph 8. This Consent Judgment shall have no application to Covered Products which are manufactured, distributed or sold outside the State of California and which are not used by California consumers. This Consent Judgment shall terminate without further action by any Party when Country Life no longer manufactures, distributes or sells

all of the Covered Products and all of such Covered Products previously "distributed into the stream of commerce" have reached their expiration dates and are no longer sold.

8. BINDING EFFECT, CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASES

- 8.1 This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between ERC, on behalf of itself, and in the public interest, and Country Life, of any alleged violation of Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations, and fully and finally resolves all claims that have been or could have been asserted in this action against Country Life for failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings for the Covered Products regarding lead. ERC, on behalf of itself, and in the public interest, hereby releases and discharges Country Life and its respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, suppliers, franchisees, licensees, customers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and all other upstream and downstream entities in the distribution chain of any Covered Product, and the predecessors, successors and assigns of any of them (collectively, "Released Parties"), from any and all claims asserted, or that could have been asserted, in this action arising from or related to the alleged failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings for the Covered Products regarding lead.
- 8.2 ERC, on behalf of itself only, hereby releases and discharges the Released Parties from any and all known and unknown past, present, and future rights, claims, causes of action, suits, damages, penalties, liabilities, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses arising from or related to the claims asserted, or that could have been asserted, under state or federal law, regarding the presence of lead in the Covered Products or the facts alleged in the Notice of Violation or the Complaint, including without limitation any and all claims concerning exposure of any person to lead in the Covered Products.
- 8.3 Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall constitute compliance by the Released Parties with Proposition 65 with respect to alleged exposures to lead contained in the Covered Products.
- 8.4 **Unknown Claims**. With regard to ERC's personal release only, it is expressly understood by ERC that the releases given by ERC pursuant to this Consent Judgment include the release of all claims, known or unknown which ERC may now or in the future have against County

Life or the Released Parties arising out of or related to the circumstances underlying ERC's Notice of Violation of March 11, 2011 concerning the Covered Products. ERC expressly declares that it has read, understood and knowingly waived any and all rights it may have under the provisions of California Civil Code Section 1542. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

"A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR."

ERC, on behalf of itself only, acknowledges and understands the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code section 1542.

8.5 ERC, on the one hand, and Country Life, on the other hand, release and waive all claims they may have against each other for any statements or actions made or undertaken by them in connection with the Notice of Violation or this action.

9. CONSTRUCTION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT, SEVERABILITY

- 9.1 The terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment have been reviewed by the respective counsel for the Parties prior to its signing, and each Party has had an opportunity to fully discuss the terms and conditions with its counsel. In any subsequent interpretation or construction of this Consent Judgment, the terms and conditions shall not be construed against any Party.
- 9.2 In the event that any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment are held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions shall not be adversely affected.

10. GOOD FAITH ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES

In the event a dispute arises with respect to either party's compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment entered by the Court, the Parties shall meet either in person or by telephone and endeavor to resolve the dispute in an amicable manner. No action or motion may be filed in the absence of such a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute beforehand.

11. GOVERNING LAW

The terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

12. PROVISION OF NOTICE

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All notices required by this Consent Judgment shall be sent by first-class, registered, or certified mail, or overnight delivery, to the following persons. Courtesy copies of communications via e-mail also may be sent, but the delivery date shall be the date of actual receipt by the addressee.

For Environmental Research Center:

Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director Environmental Research Center 3111 Camino del Rio North, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92108

Michael Bruce Freund Law Offices of Michael Freund 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105 Berkeley, CA 94704

For COUNTRY LIFE:

Judith Praitis
Sidley Austin LLP
555 W 5th Street, 40th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Brian Richmond Chief Operating Officer Country Life LLC 180 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway Happauge, New York 11788

13. COURT APPROVAL

- 13.1 If this Stipulated Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, it shall be void and have no force or effect.
- 13.2 ERC shall comply with California Health & Safety Code section 25249.7(f) and with Title 11 of the California Code Regulations, section 3003.

14. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS

This Stipulated Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be deemed to constitute one document. A facsimile or pdf signature shall be construed as valid as the original signature.

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15. ENTIRE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZATION

- 15.1 This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior discussions, negotiations, commitments and understandings related hereto. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those contained herein have been made by any Party. No other agreements not specifically referred to herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties.
- 15.2 Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to the terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment, to enter into and execute this Consent Judgment on behalf of the Party represented, and legally to bind that Party to this Consent Judgment. The undersigned have read, understand and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment. Except as explicitly provided herein, each Party shall bear its own fees and costs.

16. REQUEST FOR FINDINGS, APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND ENTRY OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

This Consent Judgment has come before the Court upon the request of the Parties. The Parties request the Court to fully review this Consent Judgment and, being fully informed regarding the matters which are the subject of this action, to:

- (1) Find that the terms and provisions of this Consent Judgment represent a fair and equitable settlement of all matters raised by the allegations of the Complaint, that the matter has been diligently prosecuted, and that the public interest is served by such settlement; and
- (2) Make the findings pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7 (f) (4), approve the Settlement and approve this Consent Judgment.

1	IT IS SO STIPULATED:
2	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER
3	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER
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5	Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director
6	Chilis Treprinistani, Excedence Birector
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9	COUNTRY LIFE, LLC
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11	Bre Rich Dated: 6/12/12
12	Brian Richmond Chief Operating Officer
13	Chief Operating Officer
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7 8	APPROVED AS TO FORM:
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20	LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL FREUND
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22	Michael Freund, Counsel for ERC Dated:
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24	CIDLEY AUCTIN LLD
25	SIDLEY AUSTIN, LLP
26	Dated:
27	Judith Praitis, Counsel for Country Life, LLC
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1	IT IS SO STIPULATED:
2	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER
4	Mal AMB
5	Chris Leptinstall, Executive Director Dated: 6/11/2012
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9	COUNTRY LIFE, LLC
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11	Dated:
12	Brian Richmond
13	Chief Operating Officer
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17 18	APPROVED AS TO FORM:
19 20	LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL FREUND
21	Michael Freund Counsel for FRC
22	Michael Freund, Counsel for ERC
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24	CIDI EV ALICTINI I I D
25	SIDLEY AUSTIN, LLP
26	Dated:
27	Judith Praitis, Counsel for Country Life, LLC
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1	IT IS SO STIPULATED:
3	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER
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5	Dated:
6	Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director
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9	COUNTRY LIFE, LLC
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11	Bre Rich Dated: 6/12/12
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18	APPROVED AS TO FORM:
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20	LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL FREUND
21	Datade
22	Michael Freund, Counsel for ERC
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24	SIDLEY AUSTIN, LLP
25	
26	Dated:
27	Judith Praitis, Counsel for Country Life, LLC
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1	JUDGMENT
2	Based upon the Parties' Stipulation, and good cause appearing, this Consent
3	Judgment is approved and judgment is hereby entered according to its terms.
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5	IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED.
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8	Dated:, 2012
9	Judge, Superior Court of the State of California
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EXHIBIT A -NOTICE OF VIOLATION



Environmental Research Center

5694 Mission Center Road #199 San Diego, CA 92108 619.309.4194

March 11, 2011

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Current President or CEO Country Life, LLC 180 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway Hauppauge, NY 11788

Office of the California Attorney General Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

VIA PRIORITY MAIL

District Attorneys of All California Counties and Select City Attorneys (See Attached Certificate of Service)

Re: Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 et seq.

Dear Addressees:

I am the Executive Director of the Environmental Research Center ("ERC") in connection with this Notice of Violations of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, which is codified at California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 *et seq.* and also referred to as Proposition 65.

ERC is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by bringing about a reduction in the use and misuse of hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees, and encouraging corporate responsibility.

The name of the Company covered by this Notice that violated Proposition 65 is:

Country Life, LLC

The products that are the subject of this Notice and the chemical in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

Country Life Maximized Action Max For Men XXXtreme 60 Tablets - Lead

Country Life Beyond Food 120 Capsules - Lead

Country Life Superior Multiple 180 Tablets - Lead

Country Life Super Fiber Psyllium Seed Husk Powder (226 g) - Lead

Country Life Maxi Pre-Natal 180 Capsules - Lead

Country Life Green Edge Powder Apple Cinnamon Flavor (336g) - Lead

Country Life Green Edge 2 Powder Apple Cinnamon Flavor (188 g) - Lead

Country Life Daily FiberX 90 Capsules - Lead

Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.* March 11, 2011 Page 2

On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity. On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead as chemical known to cause cancer.

This letter is a Notice to Country Life, LLC and the appropriate governmental authorities of the Proposition 65 violations concerning the listed products. This Notice covers all violations of Proposition 65 involving Country Life, LLC currently known to ERC from the information now available. ERC may continue to investigate other products that may reveal further violations. A summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, has been provided to the Noticed Company with a copy of this letter.

Country Life, LLC has manufactured, marketed, distributed, and/or sold the listed products, which have exposed and continue to expose numerous individuals within California to the identified chemicals. The primary route of exposure to these chemicals has been through ingestion, but may have also occurred through inhalation and/or dermal contact. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemicals. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product's label. Country Life, LLC violated Proposition 65 because the Company has failed to provide an appropriate warning to persons using these products that they are being exposed to the identified chemical.

Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, ERC intends to file a citizen enforcement action sixty days after effective service of this Notice unless Country Life, LLC agrees in an enforceable written instrument to: (1) reformulate the listed products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals; and (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty. Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and ERC 's objectives in pursuing this Notice, ERC is interested in seeking a constructive resolution to this matter. Such resolution will avoid both further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals and expensive and time consuming litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to ERC's attorney, Michael Freund, address: 1915 Addison Street, Berkley, California, 94704-1101, telephone no.: 510-540-1992, e-mail: Freund1@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Chris Heptinstall
Executive Director
Environmental Research Center

cc: Karen Evans

Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service OEHHA Summary (to Country Life, LLC only) Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only) Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq. March 11, 2011 Page 3

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Re: Environmental Research Center's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Country Life, LLC

I, Michael Freund, declare:

- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day Notice in which it is alleged the party identified in the Notice violated California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- 2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.
- 3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the Notice.
- 4. Based on the information obtained through those consultants, and on other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established and that the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- 5. Along with the copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General is attached additional factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this Certificate, including the information identified in California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: March 11, 2011

Michael Freund
Attorney for Environmental Research Center

While Freund

Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.* March 11, 2011 Page 4

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 306 Joy Street, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia 30742

On March 11, 2011, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5** *ET SEQ.*; **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**; "THE SAFE DRINKING **WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY**" on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO Country Life, LLC 180 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway Hauppauge, NY 11788

On March 11, 2011, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATION, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(d)(1) on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office for delivery by Certified Mail:

Office of the California Attorney General Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 Post Office Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On March 11, 2011, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5** *ET SEQ.*; **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** on each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties **on the Service List attached hereto**, and depositing it with the U.S. Postal Service for delivery by Priority Mail.

Executed on March 11, 2011, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Chris Heptinstall

Shiphilly

Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.* March 11, 2011 Page 5

Service List

District Attorney, Alameda County 1225 Fallon Street, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador County 708 Court Street, #202 Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965

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